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JFK Denies Nixon Charge on Cuba

STATINTL

WASHINGTON, March 20 (AP).—The White House, answering a charge by former Vice President Richard M. Nixon, insisted today that President Kennedy was unaware of U. S. support of a possible Cuban invasion attempt until after he won the 1960 election.

Press Secretary Pierre Salinger said Mr. Kennedy had received two briefings from Allen Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, during the 1960 campaign, but these consisted primarily of a broad review of the world situation.

Mr. Nixon alleges in his book, "Six Crises," that Mr. Kennedy "was endangering the security" of the Cuban operation by campaign statements.

Mr. Nixon referred particularly to a declaration by Mr. Kennedy that the United States ought to "strengthen the non-Batista Democratic anti-Castro

forces in exile and in Cuba itself who offer eventual hope of overthrowing Castro."

The former Vice President, who lost to Mr. Kennedy by a narrow margin, said Mr. Kennedy had been given a secret briefing in which he was informed that the administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower was training Cuban exiles for an invasion.

"I thought that Kennedy, with full knowledge of the facts, was jeopardizing the security of a foreign policy operation," comments Mr. Nixon. "And my rage was greater because I could do nothing about it."

The former Vice President says he was the chief advocate in the Eisenhower Administration of a tough stand against Fidel Castro's Cuba. But when Mr. Kennedy stumped for a strong line, Mr. Nixon claims he was forced to take a softer line—to say publicly something entirely different from what he had been saying privately.

"There was only one thing I could do. The covert operation had to be protected at all costs," says Mr. Nixon. "I must not suggest even by implication that the United States was rendering aid to rebel forces in and out of Cuba. In fact, I must go to the other extreme; I must attack the Kennedy proposal to provide such aid as wrong and irresponsible because it would violate our treaty commitments."

The Presidential campaign is one of the six crises in his political life that Mr. Nixon tells about in his book. The others:

- The Hiss case, which raised him to national prominence as a freshman Congressman.

- The blowup in 1952 over political funds raised by his friends.

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower's heart attack, in which "my problem was to provide leadership without appearing to lead" or "how to talk without breaking them."

- Mr. Nixon's goodwill visit

to Caracas when he was stoned and spat upon.

- His tour of Russia and the kitchen debate with Soviet Premier Khrushchey.

Each of the crises was extensively reported at the time. But Mr. Nixon adds interesting sidelights and occasional comments that offer new insights into Richard M. Nixon.

One of the sidelights has to do with the famous secret meeting in New York between Mr. Nixon and Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, just four days before the Republican Convention.

It was then that Mr. Nixon suggested Mr. Rockefeller take second place on the ticket. And there's a hint Mr. Nixon thinks the GOP may have lost the election when Gov. Rockefeller said no.